

Table 3. 20 Languages Most Frequently Spoken at Home for Population Age 5 and Older: 1990 and 2000

Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/sf3.pdf

Language spoken at home	2000		1990	
	Rank	Total Number of Speakers	Rank	Total Number of Speakers
United States	(X)	262,375,152	(X)	230,445,777
English only	(X)	215,423,557	(X)	198,600,798
Total non-English	(X)	46,951,595	(X)	31,844,979
Spanish	1	28,101,052	1	17,339,172
Chinese	2	2,022,143	5	1,249,213
French	3	1,643,838	2	1,702,176
German	4	1,382,613	3	1,547,099
Tagalog	5	1,224,241	6	843,251
Vietnamese ¹	6	1,009,627	9	507,069
Italian ¹	7	1,008,370	4	1,308,648
Korean	8	894,063	8	626,478
Russian	9	706,242	15	241,798
Polish	10	667,414	7	723,483
Arabic	11	614,582	13	355,150
Portuguese ²	12	564,630	10	429,860
Japanese ²	13	477,997	11	427,657
French Creole	14	453,368	19	187,658
Greek	15	365,436	12	388,260
Hindi ³	16	317,057	14	331,484
Persian	17	312,085	18	201,865
Urdu ³	18	262,900	(NA)	(NA)
Gujarathi	19	235,988	26	102,418
Armenian	20	202,708	20	149,694
All other languages	(X)	4,485,241	(X)	3,182,546

Note: The estimates in this table vary from actual values due to sampling errors. As a result, the number of speakers of some languages shown in the table may not be statistically different from the number of speakers of languages not shown in the table. In addition, the number of speakers of a language with a higher rank may not be statistically different from the number of speakers of a language with a lower rank.

1 In 2000, the number of Vietnamese speakers and Italian speakers were not statistically different from one another.

2 In 1990, the number of Portuguese speakers and Japanese speakers were not statistically different from one another.

3 In 1990, Hindi included those who spoke Urdu.

(X) - Not applicable

(NA) - Not available

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3.